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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/531,497	03/21/2000	Yusuke Nemoto	6195-0074-2	7101
22850	7590	10/27/2003	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			CHAU, MINH H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/531,497

Applicant(s)

NEMOTO, YUSUKE

Examiner

Minh H Chau

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 10-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. **Claims 1, 3 and 10-12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 1, the language “undried ink from a previously printed side of the sheet” is inferentially recited. The claim language does not provides any structure that allow the two sided printing operation which enable the undried ink from the previously printed side of the sheet transferred to the at least one rotating roller.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claim 1** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ito (JP 10-166705).

With respect to claim 1, Ito teaches a stencil printer comprising a printing unit (44, 46) configured to printing an image on a sheet of paper (6), a guide path along which the sheet of paper is guided to the printing unit, at least one rotating roller (4, 8) disposed adjacent to the

guide path and configured to aid in guiding the sheet of paper along the guide path, the at least one rotating roller including a press roller (4) and a position of the guide path being above the press roller (4) during either double-sided or multi-color printing operation (Fig. 5 and paragraph 23); and at least one removing roller (52) which is in contact with an outer periphery of the at least one rotating roller and configured to rotate in order to remove undried ink transferred to the at least one rotating roller so that the ink on the outer periphery of the least one rotating roller can be dried quickly (see Fig. 5 and paragraphs 23-24).

With respect to the recitation “rotate in order to ... dried quickly” (lines 9-11 of claim 1), Ito teaches a mimeograph-printing machine that use a liquid ink to prints an image and a blotter roller or a an ink removing roller (52) that have a solvent osmosis property which is in contact with the periphery of the rotating member (4) to remove undried ink from the rotating member (see Fig. 5 and paragraph 23). In view of this teaching, it is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that when the blotter roller (52) contacts the periphery of the rotating member (4), it will spread and reduce ink transferred to the rotating roller so that the ink on the periphery of the rotating roller can be dried quickly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 3 and 10-12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of Asano et al. (US #5,636,929).

With respect to claim 3, Ito teaches all the limitations as explained above, except for the limitation of “the at least one removing roller ... one rotating roller” (recited in claim 3).

Asano et al. teach a recording system including a spur cleaner or a removing roller (41) and a rotating roller (40A or 40B), the removing roller rotates in accordance with the rotation of the rotating roller in that the at least one removing roller rotates in a same rotative direction and at a same rotative velocity as the at least one rotating roller (see Figs. 8, 24A and co. 8 of Asano).

In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Ito to include the removing roller rotates in a same rotative direction and at a same rotative velocity as the rotating roller as taught by Asano et al. for the advantage of allowing the good feeding of the recording paper.

With respect to claim 10, Ito teaches all the limitations as explained above, except for the recitation of “a pair of resist rollers”.

Asano et al. teach a recording system including a rotating roller comprises a pair of resist rollers (104, 105) (see Fig. 24A of Asano et al.).

In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Ito to include a pair of resist rollers as taught by Asano et al. for the advantage of assisting in guiding the sheet of paper along the guide path.

With respect to claim 11, Ito teaches all the limitations as explained above, except for the recitation of “the resist rollers are rotated not only at the time of conveying a printed sheet”.

Asano et al. teach a recording system including a pair of rollers or resist rollers (104, 105) are capable of rotated not only at the time of conveying a printed sheet (see Fig. 24A and cols. 18-19 of Asano et al).

In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Ito to include the rollers that are rotated not only at the time of conveying a printed sheet as taught by Asano et al. so that the ink on the surface of the rotating rollers or resist rollers can be properly clean before conveying the sheet of paper.

With respect to claim 12, Ito teaches all the limitations as explained above, except for the recitation of the “resist rollers are rotated at the time of making by a master making mechanism”.

Asano et al. teach a recording system including a pair of rollers or resist rollers (104, 105) is rotated at the time printing (Fig. 24A and cols. 18-19).

In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Ito to include the rollers that are rotated at the time printing as taught by Asano et al. so that to allow the recording paper being properly feed during the printing operation or during making a master by a master making mechanism.

Response to the Remarks

7. Applicant's arguments filed 08/20/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the rejection of claim 1, The Applicant has argued that the JP '705 reference to Ito fails to teach or suggest the recitation in claim 1 of “at least one removing roller

in contact with an outer periphery of the at least one rotating roller and configured to rotate in order to both spread and reduce undried ink ...” and the roller (32) disclosed by JP ‘705 does not remove undried ink “transferred to the ... dried quickly”. The Examiner respectfully disagree with the Applicant’s opinion because the JP ‘705 (Ito) does teach a blotter roller or a removing roller (52) that have a solvent osmosis property which is in contact with the periphery of the rotating member to remove undried ink from the rotating member (see Fig. 5 and paragraph 23), and when the blotter roller (52) contacts the periphery of the rotating member, it will spread and reduce ink transferred to the rotating roller so that the ink on the periphery of the rotating roller can be dried quickly.

With respect to the rejection of claims 3 and 10-12, The Applicant has argued that Asano et al. fails to make up for the deficiencies in JP ‘705 with the respect to the subject mater of claim 1. The Examiner respectfully disagree with the Applicant’s opinion because the subject mater of claim 1 have been rejected by the JP ‘705 reference as explained in the rejection above and the Asano et al. reference have been combined with the JP ‘705 to reject the limitations of claims 3 and 10-12.

8. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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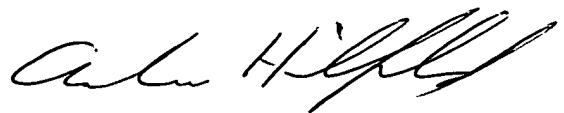
will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh H Chau whose telephone number is (703) 305-0298. The examiner can normally be reached on M - TH.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

MHC
October 20, 2003



ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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